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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /091 W

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R 211905Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7725

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMEMBASSY PARIS 07125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CGIL, CGT, AND ETUC

1. SUMMARY: DIRECTORFO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MOURGUES BELIEVES CGIL MAY WELL WIN MAJORITY SUPPORT
FOR ITS BID TO ENTER ETUC AT LATTER'S EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 24. THOUGH FO WOULD OPPOSE
CGIL ENTRY, MOURGUES INCLINED TO OPPOSE WITHDRAWAL
FROM ETUC OVER THIS ISSUE. FAVORABLE PROSPECT
INDEPENDENT ENTRY OF CGIL INTO ETUC THREATENS CGT
WITH POSSIBLE ISOLATION ON WE TRADE UNION SCENE.
CGT REACTION ANTICIPATED. END SUMMARY.

2. CAMILLE MOURGUES, DIRECTOR OF FORCE OUVRIERE'S
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, TOLD LABATT
MARCH 18 THAT HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF CGIL'S
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO ETUC COMMANDED A
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MAJORITY IN LATTER'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING,

APRIL 24. HE BASED THIS ASSESSMENT ON REPORTS THAT IN THE MARCH 2 MEETING WITH ETUC SPECIAL COMMITTEE, CGIL LEADERS WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO MAKE THEIR APPLICATION ACCEPTABLE. THEY PRESENTED CGIL'S NEW "ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP" STATUS IN WFTU AS VIRTUAL DISAFFILIATION, HINTING THAT OUTRIGHT DISAFFILIATION COULD OCCUR AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE. FURTHER, IN PARALLEL WITH ACTION BY WCL AFFILIATES, CGIL LEADERS INDICATED THAT, UPON ADMISSION TO ETUC, THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISBAND THE CGIL-CGT LIAISON COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS, THUS SEALING CGT ISOLATION ON THE EUROPEAN SCENE.

3. MOURGUES BELIEVES THAT APRIL 24 ETUC COMMITTEE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED UNDER FAVORABLE IMPACT MADE BY CGIL AT MARCH 2 DISCUSSIONS, AND WITH EXPECTATION THAT ENLARGED ETUC SPECIAL COMMITTEE WOULD AGREE TO RECOMMEND CGIL ADMISSION BEFORE ETUC CONGRESS IN COPENHAGEN IN MAY.

4. ASKED ABOUT FO'S POSITION REGARDING CGIL, MOURGUES SAID THAT FO WILL VOTE AGAINST ADMISSION, BUT THAT THERE IS NOT YET AN AGREED POSITION AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IF FO FINDS ITSELF IN MINORITY ON THIS QUESTION. HE VOLUNTEERED, IN CONFIDENCE, THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST FO WITHDRAWAL FROM ETUC, SHOULD CGIL BE ADMITTED - FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A) TO AVOID SERIOUS RISK OF FO ISOLATION ON EUROPEAN SCENE.

B) TO HELP COMPLETE ISOLATION OF CGT, WHICH MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT FOR FRENCH INTERNAL SITUATION.

C) TO PRESERVE FO'S IMAGE OF FAIRNESS, SINCE CGIL WOULD HAVE MET SAME CONDITIONS REQUIRED OF WCL AFFILIATES.

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D) TO RECOGNIZE THE POSSIBILITY THAT CGIL ENTRY INTO ETUC MIGHT REFLECT SIGNIFICANT, PERHAPS DECISIVE, STEP BY CGIL-PCI IN DIRECTION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM USSR.

E) TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE POSSIBILITY THAT FO-CFDT CONTACT WITHIN ETUC MIGHT LEAD TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE

TWO ON FRENCH INTERNAL SCENE. MOURGUES
SEEMS TO ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THIS,
AS FO AND CFDT SHARE COMMITMENT TO UNIFIED EUROPE
AND OPPOSITION AT LEAST TO MULTILATERAL CONTACTS
WITH WFTU AND WITH EE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS GENERALLY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 AMEMBASSY PARIS 07125

5. MOURGUES WELCOMES FACT THAT DECISION ON THIS
ISSUE WILL PROBABLY BE MADE BY FO CONGRESS SCHEDULED
EARLY JUNE IN TOULOUSE. THIS WILL AFFORD OPPORTUNITY
OF BROAD DEBATE ON SUBJECT. MOURGUES WOULD NOT
SPECULATE AS TO POSITION BERGERON LIKELY TO TAKE,
BUT REPEATED THAT - AS OF NOW - HE (MOURGUES) WOULD
BE PREPARED TO SPEAK IN CONGRESS IN FAVOR OF FO'S
REMAINING IN ETUC, EVEN IF CGIL IS ADMITTED. HE

FEELS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT CGT HAS NO INTENTION OF MAKING CONCESSIONS OF THE TYPE MADE BY CGIL IN ORDER TO GAIN ADMISSION INTO ETUC.

6. COMMENT: TIMES HAVE CHANGED, INDEED* MOURGUES IS ONE OF THE PILLARS OF FO ANTI-COMMUNISM, AND ONE OF ITS MORE SOPHISTICATED AND RESOURCEFUL
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TACTICIANS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COMMUNIST APPARATUS - BOTH INTERNALLY AND ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. IT IS, THEREFORE, EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT THAT A MAN OF MOURGUES' EXPERTISE, AGE (VETERAN OF THE 1947 SPLIT WHICH ESTABLISHED FO), AND ANTI-COMMUNIST COMMITMENT, SHOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE - IN FACT ADVISABLE - TO RECONCILE HIMSELF WITH CGIL ENTRY IN ETUC. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FEAR OF ISOLATION, SHOULD FO WITHDRAW, IS KEY (INDEED SUFFICIENT) REASON FOR MOURGUES' ATTITUDE. BUT MOURGUES EXPRESSED EQUAL CONVICTION AS TO OTHER FOUR REASONS, NOT CITING THEM AS MERE RATIONALIZATIONS.

7. MOST SIGNIFICANT IN CONNECTION WITH FOREGOING ARE INDEPENDENT REPORTS FROM PEOPLE IN CONTACT WITH CGT LEADERS, TO EFFECT THAT THESE LEADERS ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF CONCERN THAT CGIL MAY INDEED BREAK RANKS WITH CGT IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE ITS OWN ADMISSION RATHER THAN TRY TO NEGOTIATE SIMULTANEOUS CGIL-CGT ENTRY INTO ETUC. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, CGT LEADERS ARE BEGINNING TO FEEL DISCOMFITED AT THREAT OF POSSIBLE ISOLATION. LAST MINUTE CGT EFFORT TO FORESTALL SUCH A DEVELOPMENT CAN BE ANTICIPATED. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW CGT WILL CARRY OUT THIS MANEUVER AND TO WHOM THEY MAY TURN FOR SUPPORT.
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